

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 /065 W
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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2711

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: GOI SUPPORT FOR REJECTION FRONT

1. ON JAN. 14 I CALLED ON FONMIN DIRECTOR GEN. OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, IBRAHIM AL-WALI AND GAVE HIM TEXTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY STATE DEPT. SPOKESMEN ON U.S. POSITION AT UPCOMING UNSC SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. I POINTED OUT THAT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE U.S. POSITION AS PUBLISHED IN BAGHDAD PRESS WERE INACCURATE AND I WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN GOI WAS AWARE OF CORRECT USG POSITION. WALI READ THE TEXTS AND THANKED ME FOR THE CLARIFICATION.

2. I THEN RAISED QUESTION OF GOI SUPPORT FOR THE SO-CALLED "REJECTION FORCES" AND ASKED HOW WE SHOULD INTERPRET STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT BAKR ON OCCASION OF VISIT TO IRAQ OF PFLP (GENERAL COMMAND) LEADER, AHMED JABRIL. ACCORDING TO STORY PUBLISHED THAT MORNING IN BAGHDAD PRESS, PRES. BAKR HAD CALLED FOR UNITY OF THE "REJECTIONIST FORCES" ALTHOUGH HE HAD APPARENTLY MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO IRAQI SUPPORT FOR "FORCES".

3. WALI SAID THAT PRESIDENT HAD ONLY RESTATED LONG-STANDING
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IRAQI POSITION THAT CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI

CONFLICT BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS WOULD NOT LEAD TO SATISFACTORY ARAB OBJECTIVES. IRAQI POSITION ON THIS HAD NOT CHANGED.

4. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS ONE THING TO TAKE THIS POSITION ACCOMPANIED BY A "HANDS-OFF" ATTITUDE TOWARDS CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BUT IT WOULD BE SOMETHING ELSE IF IRAQ WERE ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF GROUPS LIKE THE PFLP (GC) TO UNDERCUT THESE EFFORTS THROUGH ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND SUBVERSION.

5. WALI SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS SAYING, AND HE THOUGHT THAT IRAQ'S POLICY WAS MORE THE FORMER THAN THE LATTER. GOI'S SUPPORT FOR REJECTION FRONT WAS "MAINLY" IN FORM OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THE GOI WOULD STATE ITS POSITION OPENLY BUT, AS A CIVILIZED NATION, WOULD NOT SUPPORT TERRORISM. WALI SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT "RESISTANCE" ACTIVITIES INSIDE THE STATE OF ISRAEL WERE MORALLY JUSTIFIED. THE PALESTINIANS HAD HAD THEIR LANDS TAKEN FROM THEM BY VIOLENCE AND THEY HAD EVERY RIGHT TO USE VIOLENCE INSIDE OF ISRAEL TO RECOVER THEM. NEITHER HE NOR THE GOI, HOWEVER, APPROVED OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE.

6. I THEN TOOK UP WITH WALI TWO VISA PROBLEMS, HAMMERS AND HORNER, AND A FLIGHT CLEARANCE PROBLEM, SATURN AIRWAYS, REPORTED SEPTELS. WALI PROMISED TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO HELP US OUT ON ALL OF THESE MATTERS.

7. COMMENT: WALI, LIKE HADITHI (BAGHDAD 28), PLAYING DOWN POSSIBILITY OF ACTIVE ROLE BY IRAQ TO BLOCK SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. WHILE THESE GENTLEMEN WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT ADMIT TO ME ANY IRAQI COMPLICITY IN TERRORISM ACTIVITIES, I BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD NOT HESITATE TO TELL ME IF GOI HAD DECIDED TO MOVE MORE ACTIVELY BY MORE ACCEPTABLE MEANS TO BLOCK SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. I STILL HAVE IMPRESSION THAT IRAQI POLICY PROCEEDING ON TWO LEVELS AND NOW COMBINES PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENT EFFORTS WITH DE FACTO PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE, EXCEPT IN CASE OF SYRIA WHERE IRAQI REGIME WILL PROBABLY USE ANY AVAILABLE OPENING, INCLUDING SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, TO ATTACK SYRIAN REGIME.
WILEY

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